United Nations

A/63/257

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 121 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170, A/60/327, A/61/189 and A/62/220).

The present report is the second annual progress report on the United Nations Office for Partnerships, which was established to manage the increasing demand from non-State actors for innovative and stronger engagement with the United Nations and serves the United Nations in three integrated areas:

(a) As the gateway and facilitator for new alliances and partnerships for the United Nations system with non-State actors;

(b) As the high-level interface with the United Nations Foundation through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) management of grants and related activities;

(c) Through the United Nations Democracy Fund, for building, promoting and strengthening democracy throughout the world in partnership with civil society

The United Nations Office for Partnerships complements the innovative partnerships fostered by the United Nations Foundation by providing partnership advisory services and outreach to the United Nations system, the private sector, foundations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and philanthropists.

* A/63/150.

08-45591 (E) 020908

Pursuant to the agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, the Secretary-General established UNFIP on 1 March 1998 as an autonomous trust fund to serve as an interface with the United Nations Foundation, which was established by Robert Edward Turner as a public charity to channel his gift of $1 billion to United Nations causes.

In his previous report (A/62/220), the Secretary-General concluded that the partnership initiatives with the United Nations Foundation, the private sector and other charitable foundations had yielded dividends in the form of new and strategic partnerships and additional resources for United Nations causes. Going forward, the United Nations Foundation aims to leverage the remaining $350 million of Mr. Turner's funds to mobilize an additional $1 billion from partners in support of United Nations causes. The agreement to leverage the remaining funds was renewed on 18 April 2007 for an additional 10-year period and is set to expire on 31 December 2017. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP (and by extension the United Nations Office for Partnerships) continue to collaborate on innovative ways to mobilize resources for United Nations causes and address global problems through public-private partnerships.

To date, the highly successful partnership between the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has resulted in net additional resources to the United Nations of approximately $1.03 billion, out of which $405.6 million represent core Turner funds and $597.4 million, approximately 58 per cent, have been generated by other partners. More than 400 projects have been implemented by 39 United Nations entities in 123 countries. UNFIP supports projects focused on the following areas: children's health; women and population; the environment; and peace, security and human rights.

As a result of the success of the UNFIP model of grant-making and programme management, the United Nations Democracy Fund was established at the 2005 World Summit. The Fund, launched in April 2006 with a focus on supporting democratic institutions, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes, funded the first round of 125 projects, for a total amount of $35 million, at the beginning of 2007. In November 2007, it launched its second round of projects and received 1,873 applications from 137 countries, representing an increase of 44 per cent over the number of applications submitted in the first round.

Contents

		Page
I.	Partnership advisory services and outreach	4
II.	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	10
	A. Children's health	10
	B. Women and population	11
	C. Environment	12
	D. Strategic initiatives	15
III.	United Nations Democracy Fund	16
IV.	Conclusions	18
Annexes		
I.	Projects funded through the United Nations Fund for InternationalPartnerships by programme area	21
II.	Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	22
III.	Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor as at 31 December 2007	23
IV.	Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund	24
V.	Organizational chart of the United Nations Office for Partnerships	25

I. Partnership advisory services and outreach

1. Building on the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see resolution 60/1), Member States have recognized the importance of and expressed support for stronger contributions of non-State actors, civil society and the private sector in promoting the development agenda of the United Nations system. Member States have also agreed that there is a need to further develop and enhance support from non-State actors for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

2. While the United Nations system has been in partnership with the private sector and civil society in a variety of ways for over 60 years, the past decade has witnessed a significant surge in efforts through corporate social responsibility, the globalization of business and the continued evolution in information and communication technologies. This has led to the establishment of new, progressive networks through coherent, structured partnerships between the public and private sectors and the redefinition of the traditional roles and expectations of governments, business and civil society.

3. Partnerships with civil society and international organizations have now become commonplace in business. Incorporating business skills and philanthropic capital and addressing the rigors of the marketplace, partnerships have developed and delivered wide ranging solutions to today's challenges. The challenges and issues are far too vast and complex for any one sector to confront alone and require partnership and outreach strategies.

4. The United Nations Office for Partnerships thus promotes, encourages and facilitates the increased engagement of the United Nations system with private companies and foundations that remain largely untapped sources of additional support for United Nations objectives. The focus of the Office has largely been on furthering the Millennium Development Goals and promoting democracy. The Office engages in and supports many initiatives and interventions related to the Millennium Development Goals which are already under way and advocates for them to be both coordinated and scaled up for maximum impact through cost-effective and interlinked strategies and solutions. Moreover, the partnership-building activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships have as twin objectives the education and engagement of the public and new partners in the work of the United Nations.

5. The number of private sector entities that have approached the United Nations with regard to partnership opportunities has increased significantly in the last 10 years. In 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships received almost 700 external requests for advisory assistance from a wide range of private sector companies, foundations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and philanthropists, reflecting an almost 30 per cent increase over the previous year. In 2007, partnership advisory services represented approximately 60 per cent of the activities of the Office, while 40 per cent was dedicated to outreach and advocacy. The majority of requests from non-State actors concerned assistance for partnerships in programmes focused on poverty reduction, education, health and disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance in the least developed countries. The Office has also reached out to corporations and foundations in developing countries to develop alliances and partnerships within the developing world.

6. In 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships further enhanced implementation of its partnership advisory services and outreach initiatives and fostered innovative strategies for engaging non-State actors with the United Nations system. The expertise of the Office, which provides advice to United Nations entities, as well as to external organizations, is in the following areas:

(a) Strategic advice to prospective partners in supporting United Nations causes;

(b) Screening of internal and external inquiries;

(c) Provision of advice on United Nations procedures and best practices;

(d) Design of programmes and projects;

(e) Establishment and, in some cases, management of global and regional networks;

(f) Development of creative financing mechanisms.

Key projects and initiatives

7. Some of the key projects and initiatives implemented by the United Nations Office for Partnerships in 2007, in collaboration with the private sector, foundations, civil society organizations and the United Nations system, are set out below.

Blue Planet Run

8. On 5 June 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted the launch of Blue Planet Run, an around-the-world race to build awareness about the lack of access to safe drinking water for more than 1 billion people. Twenty outstanding athletes completed the race, which spanned 16 countries and covered 15,200 miles. Sponsoring partners included Blue Planet Run Foundation, Dow Chemical Company (which raised over $31 million,) Motorola, Skype and PayPal. The Office provided strategic advice to the partners on the allocation of funds raised for various projects aimed at providing safe and immediate access to drinking water.

Business Advisory Council for the Greater Tumen Region

9. In 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships assisted the United Nations Office in China to establish a Business Advisory Council, aimed at enhancing opportunities for business, creating jobs and economic growth and improving and enabling an investment environment via cross-border cooperation in the Greater Tumen Region. The aim of the Council is to engage the private sector in fostering sustainable development in the region, with a special focus on transportation; tourism; energy; infrastructure; and the environment, as a cross-cutting sector.

10. The Office developed a concept paper and terms of reference for the Business Advisory Council and facilitated its launch in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in November 2007. Current Council members include: DHL, Standard Chartered Bank, Goldman Sachs, the China-Britain Business Council, the Daewoo International Corporation and a number of companies from the region.

Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy

11. The United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy are working together to focus members on programmes and projects aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Committee is an international forum consisting of 175 chief executive officers and chairpersons who are responsible for raising the level and quality of corporate philanthropy. In 2007, the Office also served on the organization's Excellence Awards Selection Committee, which recognizes important philanthropy projects.

Commonwealth Business Council

12. The United Nations Office for Partnerships continued its collaboration with the Commonwealth Business Council to assist in partnership arrangements for the Council's "Linking Africa" campaign, which aims to support the goals of the African Union and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by creating the first detailed continent-wide economic profile database on a country-by-country basis. The partnership has led to a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Commonwealth Business Council and the creation of the Global Business Council, which serves to enhance the mobilization of North/North and South/South investments and partnerships, to support enterprise development and to increase the role of business in society to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The membership of the Global Business Council comprises 94 companies from 53 countries spanning five continents.

European Foundation Centre

13. Since 2003, the United Nations Office for Partnerships has been introducing United Nations entities to the European Foundation Centre, an umbrella organization of over 500 European foundations. In 2007, the Office was invited to chair a panel discussion on promoting democracy at a meeting of the European Foundation Centre's General Assembly on the theme "New challenges for global philanthropy", which was conducted in collaboration with the Club de Madrid. The United Nations Office for Partnerships also promoted the adoption by the International Committee of the European Foundation Centre of the Millennium Development Goals as an essential element of the Centre's agenda, specifically to address global problems and challenges outside of the European region.

Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

14. In September 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-sponsored the world premiere at United Nations Headquarters of the movie *Trade*, which addresses the issue of human trafficking. The high-level event was part of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, which is managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and served as an awareness-raising endeavour for the United Nations system and civil society. The funds raised at the event were donated to non-governmental organizations focused on providing services to the victims of human trafficking. The Office provided strategic advice on the involvement of the private sector at the event and assisted in creating a suitable financial mechanism to transfer the funds. It also played a critical role in securing well-known celebrities (including Joan Rivers) to advocate on behalf of the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

Global Partnership Center

15. The United Nations Office for Partnerships provided strategic advice to the United States Department of State on United Nations system experience and methodologies in preparation for the establishment of the Global Partnership Center. The focus of the Center is on building a common platform for State and non-State actors to collaborate on projects to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, in November 2007, the Office also co-chaired the first meeting of the Partnership Information Sharing Network, which the Office had established with the United States Department of State. Representatives of the following entities pooled their experiences: the United States Department of State, the United Nations Foundation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, established by President George Bush of the United States, the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank.

Global social compliance programme

16. In June 2007, the Comité International d'entreprises à succursales (International Committee of Food Retail Chains) launched the global social compliance programme, aimed at promoting the harmonization of existing codes and implementation systems in global supply chains. Currently, the programme consists of 20 companies, including Wal-Mart, Texco, Migros and Carrefour. The United Nations Office for Partnerships provided strategic advice to programme members in respect of their partnership-building activities with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Louise T. Blouin Foundation

17. The United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted, together with the Louise T. Blouin Foundation, the global creative leadership summit, held in New York in September 2007, to address the issues of global poverty reduction, trade, communication and foreign policy. The Office facilitated the participation of the United Nations system at the conference, which brought together leaders in business, technology, government, science and the arts, to provide insights that would have practical implications for problem-solving across various disciplines. Following are the key outcomes of the summit discussions:

(a) Identifying Governments, corporations and non-governmental organizations for joint work on health, education, poverty and water, and have them report thereon at the next summit;

(b) Developing a "Google for development" database for non-governmental organization use to identify what development work is being conducted and where, in order to determine the best application of resources;

(c) Developing methods to coordinate corporate social responsibility projects with new philanthropic capital in order to maximize resources and results;

(d) Supporting social enterprise models that are both entrepreneurial and experimental in order to find new ways of building business and distributing welfare.

Microsoft CEO Summit and launch of Microsoft Africa programmes

18. Chief executive officers from Fortune 1000 companies worldwide gathered at the Microsoft CEO Summit held from 15 to 17 May 2007. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships was interviewed at the Summit about the role of the enterprise in addressing global problems. The Office informed the corporate sector about priority issues on the agenda of the Organization and promoted strategies that focused on the Millennium Development Goals.

19. As a result, Microsoft announced in early 2007 that it was increasing its commitment to bring about new social and economic opportunities for developing and emerging markets around the world through the Microsoft Unlimited Potential programme, with the key focus on Africa. Microsoft is working with the United Nations Office for Partnerships to promote the use of technology, training and partnerships to help bring sustained social and economic opportunities to the estimated 5 billion people who are not yet realizing the benefits of technology.

20. To further those efforts, the United Nations Office for Partnerships hosted an event in May 2007 to advance Africa's partnership strategy. Participants included members of the diplomatic community of the United Nations, senior Microsoft representatives; foundation and business leaders, including the United Nations Foundation founder Ted Turner; Louise MacBain, founder of the Louise T. Blouin Foundation; and senior United Nations officials. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, stated that African development was one of the highest priorities of the United Nations.

Marvel Entertainment partnership

21. In cooperation with the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to work with Marvel Entertainment and the French documentary film producer, Romuald Sciora, on creating a comic book for global distribution about the work of the United Nations. The storyline will focus on themes that embody the spirit of the United Nations, including on the cooperation of people from diverse backgrounds in providing solutions to conflicts and aid to those in need all over the world. Along with the comic, games and posters will be produced explaining the work of the United Nations.

The Millennium Development Goals monitor

22. The United Nations Office for Partnerships helped to facilitate the setup of a new online resource that will serve as an educational and advocacy platform for realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Created as a web application tool for development practitioners, policymakers, journalists, students and others, the Millennium Development Goals monitor website can be used for tracking real-time progress on, for learning about and for supporting the Millennium Development Goals around the world. It was developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Google.org, in collaboration with various United Nations agencies and was launched in November 2007.

International section of the Public Relations Society of America

23. In December 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted at United Nations Headquarters an event on the theme "Win-win partnerships with United Nations agencies: achieving your organization's social responsibility goal" for the Public Relations Society of America and briefed participants on the importance of corporate responsibility goals in the multi-stakeholder business world, as well as the impact of high-visibility public-private partnerships that help achieve both corporate responsibility goals and United Nations initiatives. A panel of representatives from a number of United Nations entities, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), presented their objectives and guidelines on cooperation with the private sector and provided concrete examples of successful partnerships. As a follow-up to the event, the United Nations Office for Partnerships, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, organized a briefing by a Society member, the global marketing research company, GfK Roper Public Affairs, for the United Nations Communications Group on a strategic communications plan, especially in conflict and post-conflict regions.

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

24. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund grant to the United Nations Development Programme, in the amount of $25,000, will go towards a feasibility study for creating a global development platform. When operational, the platform will enable the United Nations to provide a comprehensive and efficient response to the growing interest of the private sector and civil society in United Nations causes, including the Millennium Development Goals, and leverage additional resources for United Nations programmes worldwide. Outputs of the initial phase of the project will include a draft analysis for a web-based tool, a collection and analysis of concrete information regarding ongoing partnership projects, an assessment of existing projects to identify lessons learned and best practices and a feasibility study for launching the project globally. In addition, and during the course of its development, the project will generate awareness of different or complementary approaches to facilitating partnership-building initiatives and the potential benefits of this approach for key development issues.

Synergos Institute

25. Through its strategic alliance with the Synergos Institute, the United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to advise members of the global philanthropists circle on the most effective ways of collaborating with the United Nations on global projects. The Office also worked with the Institute's multi-stakeholder partnerships section to explore ways to further its engagement in the United Nations activities, specifically in the areas of poverty alleviation, access to clean water, health care and education.

Wal-Mart

26. In 2007, under the guidance and support of the UNOP, Wal-Mart became increasingly engaged in supporting United Nations causes, especially the efforts of

the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to end violence against women. Wal-Mart has committed its intent to collaborate with the United Nations on the issue of gender-based violence and on specific needs for women in the workplace environment, specifically in large factories and major suppliers of Wal-Mart throughout the world.

Windsor he@lth dialogues

27. To highlight the midpoint of the Millennium Development Goals project, the United Nations Office for Partnerships designed the first in a series of dialogues focused on digital health, technology and development. "Digital health in the age of AIDS", was co-hosted by the Office, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Rockefeller Foundation and held at St. George's House, Windsor Castle, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in October 2007. The delegates participating reached a consensus on priorities for action that yielded 12 groups of issues and resulted in a "Digital he@lth initiative" to be launched in 2008 at the forthcoming Windsor he@lth dialogues.

II. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

28. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998. Its mission is to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system and to promote new partnerships and alliances with civil society donors, in furtherance of United Nations causes. UNFIP collaborates with United Nations entities to identify innovative and deserving projects within the strategic areas of children's health; women and population; the environment; and peace, security and human rights. Since 2000, the Millennium Development Goals have provided an overall framework for UNFIP programming. At the end of 2007, the United Nations Foundation's allocations to UNFIP projects reached approximately $1.03 billion, out of which $405.6 million represented core Turner funds and $597.4 million (almost 58 per cent) was generated by other partners. More than 400 projects have been implemented by 39 United Nations entities in 123 countries.

A. Children's health

29. As of 31 December 2007, the children's health portfolio comprised 78 projects, with a total value of $619.4 million. The programme strategy is guided by priorities established at the World Summit for Children held in 1990 and Goal 4 of the Millennium Development Goals, which calls for reduction by two thirds of the under-five child mortality rate by 2015. The children's health strategy has addressed select diseases through extensive prevention strategies, large-scale immunization campaigns and the strengthening of the public health capacities of countries. Whenever possible and appropriate, other initiatives, such as community-based children's health programmes and micronutrient supplementation, have been integrated into the immunization campaigns. In 2007, the UNFIP priority activities in the area of children's health included the projects and initiatives set out below.

Polio eradication

30. In 2007, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continued their support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the largest international public health effort in history. WHO, UNICEF, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and donor Governments collaborate jointly on the initiative, which has led to a rapid decline in transmission of the wild polio virus. As a result, the number of countries where polio is still endemic has decreased to four as of 2007. Public health infrastructure, particularly the cold chain and disease surveillance system, has been strengthened, having a favourable impact on other disease control efforts.

Measles prevention

31. The Measles Initiative, led by the American Red Cross, the United Nations Foundation, WHO, UNICEF and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has become one of the most successful global health initiatives in the world. In just six years, the Initiative has helped to reduce global measles mortality by 68 per cent, surpassing the United Nations goal of 50 per cent, by vaccinating over 400 million children. In Africa, mortality has been reduced by 91 per cent, exceeding the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy goal to reduce measles deaths by 90 per cent by 2010. Specifically, the number of global measles deaths declined from an estimated 873,000 in 1999 to 245,000 in 2007. In 2007, the Initiative expanded its efforts to include the delivery of such other critical health interventions, as oral polio vaccines, vitamin A, insecticide-treated bed nets and mebendazole for deworming. The Initiative also expanded its geographic reach beyond Africa to more than 197 million children in 33 countries.

Malaria prevention

32. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have worked in conjunction with the Measles Initiative to distribute more than 730,000 insecticide-treated antimalarial bed nets in Africa through the end of 2007. Through the "Nothing but nets" campaign, approximately $18 million has been raised to purchase and distribute insecticide-treated nets. In 2007, "Nothing but nets" funds were used to procure and distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets during nationwide measles campaigns in Mali, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. The project aimed to achieve at least 80 per cent coverage for children under 5 years in those areas. "Nothing but nets" also funded an emergency grant to provide long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to internally displaced persons in Chad.

B. Women and population

33. As at 31 December 2007, the total value of the women and population portfolio was $135.9 million for 94 projects. The programme's overarching objective has been to support universal access to reproductive health services and supplies by 2015, in keeping with the central goal set by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In addition, programme activities have focused on establishing the needs of adolescent girls and sexual and reproductive health and rights as global development priorities. In 2007, the UNFIP priority

activities related to the issue of women and population included the projects and initiatives set out below.

Supporting and strengthening the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

34. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have been working closely with UNFPA on a campaign to end fistula. This has included activities highlighting first-hand accounts of fistula survivors, including by supporting "One by one", a grass-roots campaign that raises funds for UNFPA efforts to address fistula through prevention, surgery and follow-up care, and various awareness-raising events. In partnership with the Hewlett Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continued to provide support for UNFPA and Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental alliance of developing countries that aims to strengthen and expand South-South cooperation in this field. In partnership with the Ford Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP supported a joint WHO/UNFPA project to build capacity at the country level to ensure that reproductive health initiatives were sufficiently integrated into the development of poverty reduction strategy plans.

35. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP also provided financial support to UNIFEM to develop a sustainable financial model for the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which has focused on reducing feminized poverty, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls and achieving gender equality.

Elevating the needs of adolescent girls on the global development agenda

36. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continued to support the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls, which includes representatives of UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and works collaboratively to support and respond to the needs of adolescent girls. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP, in partnership with the Nike Foundation, also assisted the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the "Nine million campaign", which aims to promote education, sports and play among adolescent refugee girls and to better their economic livelihoods by increasing their business skills and opportunities for income generation.

C. Environment

37. The overall environment portfolio as at 31 December 2007 was valued at $162.9 million for 134 projects. The priority areas of the environment programme are biodiversity and sustainable development, and sustainable energy and climate change.

Biodiversity and sustainable development

38. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships continued to champion the work of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by working with the United Nations Foundation to develop and fund programmes, including those set out below, which directly address threats to World Heritage sites.

World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism

39. The World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism has engaged the travel industry to support local communities and World Heritage preservation in more than 20 World Heritage sites in seven countries. This initiative also aims at harmonizing certification systems and developing a global platform for sustainable tourism best practices.

World Heritage local ecological entrepreneurship Programme

40. The World Heritage local ecological entrepreneurship Programme furthers the commitment to using a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. It is a joint investment initiative of the UNDP small grants programme and Conservation International. Through the initiative, a new financing facility was established, providing a market-based platform for communities in high biodiversity areas to access business and conservation training and the financial capital needed for long-term success.

Sian Ka'an World Heritage site

41. The project continued to work towards protecting critical coastal habitats threatened by tourism development through conservation action in the Yucatan coastal environment, a significant parcel of land in the Yucatan was purchased and a research and educational centre planned for the area. Protection of the region's freshwater wetlands, springs and coastal lagoons was enhanced by a statistical analysis of environmental indicators to create awareness on environmental issues and to assist in decision-making. Work is currently being undertaken on assessing the underground hydrological system in an effort to better map how ground water pollution may pose a threat to the coral reef.

Monitoring and management of World Heritage sites

42. The project continued its successful and close collaboration with World Heritage site managers to develop a detailed methodology for assessing management effectiveness. Two of the participating nine sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger have since been removed, indicating that the main threats to the sites have been effectively managed. The "Enhancing our heritage" workbook has become one of the three most recognized approaches to assessing management effectiveness under the framework of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape

43. The initiative aimed to transform regional management in the 2,000,000 km^2 of seascape off the coasts of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama. The

region contains several marine UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Galápagos Marine Reserve, Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Coiba National Park and Coco Island National Park. UNESCO, Conservation International and project partners have supported a growing network of Governments, regional cooperation mechanisms, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector to effectively manage the conservation of the region's intrinsic biodiversity value and ensure long-term benefits to the millions of people who depend on sustainable use of marine resources. The project has seen remarkable progress on all scales: core Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape sites are having their most urgent priorities met, national level processes promoting better marine management consistent with the objectives of the project were under way in each of the four Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape countries and regional cooperation was improving.

Partnership for the Galapagos Invasive Species Trust Fund

44. In 1999, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP partnered with UNESCO to eradicate invasive species in the Galapagos Islands. In order to preserve the unique biodiversity value of the Galapagos Islands and to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the project, an endowment facility was set up in 2007. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP matched Conservation International and other donor contributions on a one-to-one ratio, bringing the total contributions to over $2.19 million. The United Nations Foundation also secured a $1 million commitment from the Government of Ecuador for the endowment fund. The total of $3.19 million was incorporated into a UNDP/Global Environment Facility initiative for a larger endowment of $15 million and will trigger an additional $1.6 million from the Facility.

BioTrade Programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

45. During 2007, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP extended their commitment to further the success of the BioTrade Programme. After providing two grants that facilitated the creation of a global programme and several national programmes within the Andean, Amazonian and Southern Africa regions, the United Nations Foundation joined the Union for Ethical BioTrade, a non-profit organization derived from the need for private sector coordination as identified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The Union brings together a diverse group of businesses that use materials reflecting native biological diversity and organizations that commit to the principles and criteria of the Union. These networks have been set up to enable communities to access markets and facilitate bio-responsible production of goods and services.

Sustainable energy and climate change

46. In 2007, the United Nations Foundation supported the leadership of the Secretary-General in the area of climate change by providing financial support for the mandates of his three special envoys on the issue and by funding a high-level event at United Nations Headquarters on climate change. Additional key projects in 2007 are set out below.

Renewable energy for the electrification of the Galapagos Islands

47. Through the San Cristobal wind project, three giant wind turbines have become fully operational. The turbines will eventually halve the island's diesel fuel imports and pave the way for further renewable energy development in the Galapagos archipelago. The turbines were installed through a partnership between the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP, the Government of Ecuador, UNDP and a consortium of the world's largest electricity companies. The project is the first phase of an umbrella programme supported by the Government of Ecuador and UNDP focused on increased use of renewable electricity sources in the Galapagos-inhabited islands. The project has been a showcase for the promotion of small-scale renewable energy power generation and distribution systems in critical ecosystems.

E-Commerce and Renewable Energy

48. E-Commerce and Renewable Energy (eCARE) has established telecommunication centres owned and operated by entrepreneurs in rural and peri-urban areas of Ghana. Each eCARE rural business centre is powered by solar panels and consists of a modified and furnished shipping container equipped with a full range of communication technologies. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP assisted in the development of a fund to provide loans to entrepreneurs to cover the capital costs of purchasing and equipping their eCARE business centres. Today, 69 centres are in operation in Ghana, benefiting more than 500,000 people. Ghana Telecom has played a leadership role in support of the initiative and has adopted it as a mainstay of its corporate social responsibility programme.

D. Strategic initiatives

49. The total value of this portfolio as at 31 December 2007 was $63.4 million and comprised 58 projects. The projects provided support to the United Nations system in various areas of strategic importance. The key activities and projects in 2007 are set out below.

Supporting the Central Emergency Response Fund

50. The Central Emergency Response Fund was established to enable the more timely and reliable delivery of humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts. It is funded by voluntary contributions. Through a partnership agreement with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have used funds raised from non-government contributors to support Central Emergency Response Fund programmes and activities. In 2007, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP disbursed over $100,000 to the Fund for rapid response programmes and underfunded emergency projects.

Securing the biological basis of agriculture and promoting new and fuller use of crop genetic resources

51. The project was designed to secure the threatened genetic diversity of 21 food crops; to expand their availability and utility to plant breeders in order to address the issues of food security, development and poverty; and to provide financial security for the long-term care and sustainability of those important genetic

collections. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has committed $29.9 million to the initiative, which has been undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

III. United Nations Democracy Fund

52. The United Nations Democracy Fund, launched in April 2006, was established during the 2005 World Summit. As one of the outcomes of the Summit, the Fund was tasked with acting as a grant-making mechanism to support partnerships between civil society and the United Nations to promote democracy throughout the world. The Secretary-General tasked UNFIP with setting up the Fund structure and with providing management oversight and administrative support. The United Nations Office for Partnerships took over those responsibilities in 2006.

53. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its first call for proposals on 15 April 2006 through an online application system that facilitated access by civil society organizations. A total of 1,303 applications were received from 131 countries, of which 916 applications were submitted by civil society organizations and the remainder by the United Nations, academia and Governments. The Fund screened the proposals for eligibility and an in-depth analysis of the proposals was undertaken by the Programme Consultative Group. The Advisory Board of the Fund recommended 125 initiatives, for a total project cost of $35 million, which was subsequently approved by the Secretary-General. The funding of the projects began in 2007 and addressed the following key areas:

(a) Civic education, electoral support and political parties (28 per cent);

(b) Democratic dialogue and constitutional processes (25.6 per cent);

(c) Civil society empowerment (16 per cent);

(d) Accountability, transparency and integrity (16 per cent);

(e) Human rights and fundamental freedoms (8.8 per cent);

(f) Access to information (5.6 per cent).

54. In 2007, The Fund continued to collect mid-year reports on projects that had been funded under the first round and reported on achievements to the Fund Advisory Board members. Over the course of 2007, the Fund undertook a number of initiatives to enlarge its donor base. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Japan, Lithuania, Peru, Romania and Turkey all made first-time contributions to UNDEF, expanding the group of contributors to a total of 33 Member States. The total amount of contributions received as at 31 December 2007 reached $65 million, surpassing the 2006 budget by an additional $21 million.

55. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund are the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group. The Advisory Board, consisting of 17 members appointed by the Secretary-General, held three meetings in 2007 (on 10 April, 5 November and 14 December). Two additional members were added for 2008. The main purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide policy guidance for the development of programme and funding guidelines and to recommend funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General. The Programme Consultative

Group consists of the following six entities: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP, UNIFEM, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office also participates in Programme Consultative Group meetings. The purpose of the Programme Consultative Group is to utilize the specific technical expertise of each entity during the assessment and quality control processes and to provide advisory functions during the implementation phase in regard to project monitoring and evaluation. The Programme Consultative Group held three meetings in 2007 (on 17 January, 16 October and 6 December). In October 2007, a new Executive Head of the Fund was appointed.

56. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its second call for project proposals through an online application system in November 2007. A total of 1,873 applications from 137 countries were submitted, representing a 44 per cent increase over the number of applications submitted in the first round. Projects submitted by civil society organizations accounted for 85.9 per cent, followed by United Nations entities (6.9 per cent), other public institutions (2.9 per cent), global or regional intergovernmental bodies or associations (2.3 per cent) and government agencies (1.8 per cent). With regard to the regional origins of project proposals, 37.3 per cent of applications were from Africa, followed by Asia and the Pacific (22 per cent), the Americas (17.6 per cent), Europe (11.6 per cent) and Arab States (5.4 per cent). The applications addressed the following issues:

(a) Civil society empowerment (28.8 per cent);

(b) Human rights and fundamental freedoms (22.4 per cent);

(c) Democratic dialogue (19.6 per cent);

(d) Civil education, electoral support and political parties (12.3 per cent);

(e) Accountability, transparency and integrity (8.8 per cent);

(f) Access to information (8.1 per cent).

57. Eighty-two per cent of the proposals were for projects at the country level. Applications closed on 31 December 2007. The five countries that submitted the largest number of project proposals were (in order of ranking): Nigeria, Nepal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia and Sierra Leone. Five per cent of the proposals received were for global projects and 13 per cent were for projects to be delivered at the regional level.

58. The Advisory Board approved a scheme for the second round of funding, whereby the Fund would retain approximately 10 per cent of project funds for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The decision was based on a preliminary paper, submitted by the Fund on a Fund evaluation strategy, and was discussed at the sixth Advisory Board meeting, on 14 December 2007. During the last quarter of 2007, the Fund revised and updated documents on project document guidelines; monitoring and reporting guidelines and timetables; evaluation guidelines and project revisions and extension procedures.

59. The United Nations Democracy Fund aims to establish, on an annual basis, a clear grant-making system which will be readily understood by donors and grant-seekers alike. In consultation with the Advisory Board and the Programme

Consultative Group in 2007, it prepared and issued a number of papers and guidelines in that regard.

60. The United Nations Democracy Fund continued to build strong partnerships with Member States, non-governmental organizations and think tanks to ensure that Member States, as well as the wider international community and civil society, were well informed about the work of the Fund and of developments in sponsored projects. Briefings on the work of the Fund were organized for the following:

- Citizens' Commission for Human Development (2 August 2007)
- International IDEA (6 August 2007)
- United States Department of State (12 and 25 September 2007)
- Asia Foundation (24 September 2007)
- Council for a Community of Democracies (24 September 2007)
- Conseil des organisations non-gouvernmentales d'appui au développement (25 September 2007)
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (26 September 2007)
- Commonwealth Secretariat (22 October 2007)
- Delegation of the European Parliament (19 November 2007)
- Japanese parliamentary delegation (21 November 2007)

VI. Conclusions

61. Strategic engagement with foundations, the private sector and other stakeholders is proving to be an effective method for advancing United Nations goals. Today's unprecedented cooperation between the United Nations and non-State actors is driven by a recognition that many of the world's most pressing problems are too complex for any one sector to face alone. Thus, the public and private sectors increasingly work together in converting social responsibility into practice and helping the Organization to achieve its goals.

62. The successful mobilization of resources through the partnership activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships have resulted, to date, in net additional resources to the United Nations system of more than $1 billion. Moreover, the Office has seen a sharply increased demand for its partnership advisory services from the private sector, foundations, non-governmental organizations and philanthropists, receiving almost 700 requests for advisory services in 2007.

63. Since the inception of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in March 1998, the Office has benefited from numerous lessons learned and best practices in partnership facilitation, outreach and support, which are now being institutionalized. Specifically, the United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as a one-stop, full-scale partnership service for the United Nations system. To engage corporations, foundations and civil society in helping to achieve United Nations goals, especially the Millennium Development Goals, the Office will continue to provide expert advice and assistance in the following areas:

(a) Screening of internal and external inquiries;

(b) Provision of advice on United Nations procedures and best practices;

(c) Design of programmes and projects;

(d) Establishment and, in some cases, management of global and regional networks;

(e) Development of creative financing mechanisms.

64. During the next five years, the Office will aim to enhance its services as a repository for external State and non-State actors, for contacts and for lessons learned and best practices concerning public-private partnerships in the United Nations system. The Office will continue to provide daily guidance and support in the above areas to both external partners and United Nations entities. Simultaneously, the Office will continue to provide a unique platform for outreach and advocacy, focusing on raising awareness of the work of the United Nations and on identifying new partners to support the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Office will also aim to include in its key priorities the provision of assistance to United Nations programmes in post-conflict countries via the encouragement of private sector investments.

65. The United Nations Office for Partnerships intends to enhance its Partnership Advisory Services specifically in the following three areas: working with existing partners to strengthen existing partnerships; identifying and developing new partnership opportunities; and exploring ways to increase the capacity and efficiencies of the Office, in particular to create a more user-friendly data management system. The Office will also aim to create a small, agile and focused additional capacity to carry out essential partnership functions. The establishment of such a capacity is an important strategic initiative, with the potential to make significant contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As a first step towards that goal, there is a need to formalize the Office's vast databases of partnerships and contacts, and to make them accessible to all United Nations entities. The comprehensive database will include good practices in the areas of negotiating agreements, financial management, advocacy, risk assessment and implementation of guidelines on cooperation with the business sector. As an immediate step for 2008, the Office has secured external resources to conduct a feasibility study to provide a sound analysis for such a database, the value it might provide with respect to facilitating development partnerships and the necessary conditions for its viability. The study will provide the necessary data required for a more detailed proposal for the new partnership capacity based on a sound appreciation of what is required and appropriate.

66. In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Partnerships, the United Nations Foundation continues to strengthen and grow while yielding dividends in the form of new and additional resources for United Nations causes. As the high-level interface of the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP continues its management of grants and related activities. Going forward, the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships aim to mobilize another $1 billion, to be allocated over 10 years, from partners to support the goals of the United Nations.

67. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established in 2005 and became fully operational in 2006. To date it has conducted two funding rounds, committing

about $60 million to support projects that build democracy around the world. It has sharpened its focus and, in consultation with its Advisory Board and in coordination with other United Nations bodies, has determined that it will concentrate on funding civil society organizations, thus complementing the many United Nations programmes that support government projects. The second round of funding was met with a resounding vote of enthusiasm from civil society worldwide. Whereas there were 1,300 applications for funding in the first round (2006), there were 1,873 applications in the second round (2007), representing an increase of 44 per cent. Applications were received from all parts of the globe, with sub-Saharan Africa submitting over one third of all applications, followed by applications from the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Fund aims to maintain an annual process for the application, selection and disbursement of funds.

Annex I

Projects funded through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships by programme area

(In United States dollars)

	As at December 2006		*Approvals in 2007*		*Total*		*Funded by*		
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*United Nations Foundation*	*Parallel donors*	*Other donors*
Children's health	69	613 405 568	9	5 999 340	78	619 404 908	142 889 042	47 324 101	476 515 866
Population and women	89	133 848 854	5	2 144 265	94	135 993 119	117 393 291	22 338 737	18 599 828
Environment	131	162 577 528	3	361 404	134	162 938 932	116 957 282	234 287 572	45 981 651
Peace, security and human rights	58	49 485 198	0	—	58	49 485 198	36 070 943	22 445 750	13 414 255
Other	51	33 072 124	7	30 311 899	58	63 384 023	20 397 961	7 591 277	42 986 061
Total	**398**	**992 389 272**	**24**	**38 816 908**	**422**	**1 031 206 180**	**433 708 519**	**333 987 437**	**597 497 661**

Annex II

Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General (Chairperson)

Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Leo Mérorès, President, Economic and Social Council (Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations)

Lincoln C. Chen, MD, President, China Medical Board of New York

Kirsti Lintonen, Chairman of the Second Committee, General Assembly (Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations)

Mary Oakes Smith, Fellow, Information Technology for Education and Health, World Bank

Franklin A. Thomas, The Ford Foundation Study Group

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Amir Dossal (member, ex officio), Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Annex III

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor as at 31 December 2007

(In United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution*
Australia	7 303 974.44
Bulgaria	10 000.00
Chile	130 000.00
Croatia	25 000.00
Cyprus	5 000.00
Czech Republic	134 099.57
Denmark	265 017.67
Estonia	10 395.00
France	1 874 000.00
Georgia	24 942.69
Germany	3 684 784.50
Hungary	50 000.00
India	10 000 000.00
Ireland	658 724.00
Israel	27 500.00
Italy	1 485 400.00
Japan	10 000 000.00
Lithuania	13 277.69
Mongolia	10 000.00
Peru	20 000.00
Poland	200 000.00
Portugal	50 000.00
Qatar	6 000 000.00
Republic of Korea	1 000 000.00
Romania	294 260.00
Senegal	100 000.00
Slovenia	80 000.00
Spain	2 290 212.50
Sri Lanka	5 000.00
Sweden	729 450.04
Turkey	50 000.00
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	609 350.00
United States of America	17 920 000.00
Total	**65 060 388.10**

Annex IV

Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund

Member States

Australia

Benin

Chile

France

Germany

Hungary

India

Indonesia

Japan

Qatar

South Africa

United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

International Commission of Jurists

Others appointed by the Secretary-General

Michael Doyle

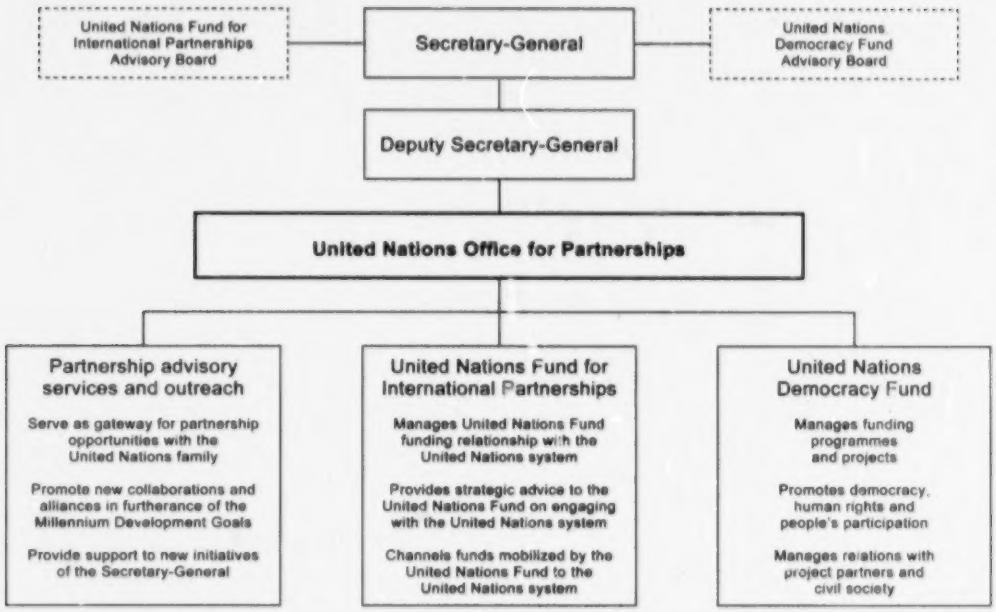
Rima Khalaf Hunaidi

Guillermo O'Donnell

Amir A. Dossal (member, ex officio)

Annex V

Organizational chart of the United Nations Office for Partnerships


United Nations Fund for International Partnerships Advisory Board
Secretary-General
United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board
Deputy Secretary-General
United Nations Office for Partnerships
Partnership advisory services and outreach
Serve as gateway for partnership opportunities with the United Nations family
Promote new collaborations and alliances in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals
Provide support to new initiatives of the Secretary-General
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
Manages United Nations Fund funding relationship with the United Nations system
Provides strategic advice to the United Nations Fund on engaging with the United Nations system
Channels funds mobilized by the United Nations Fund to the United Nations system
United Nations Democracy Fund
Manages funding programmes and projects
Promotes democracy, human rights and people's participation
Manages relations with project partners and civil society